

More and more the church is realizing its growing need for soul winners. The day is forever past when a church can expect to do her work in bringing Christ as a witness to the whole world, where the pastor does all the work, or where he fails to train his members for personal effort and personal soul winning. The Young People's Society furnishes the pastor an excellent school for the training of personal workers and also, at the same time furnishes these workers an excellent field in which to begin their work of soul winning. And it is encouraging to notice how the society is being used by pastors for this purpose. More and more our society is becoming an evangelistic power in the church, and the time bids fair to soon come when apostolic conditions of soul winning shall prevail in the church.

In the scripture lesson for the evening the soul is represented by the lost Sheep, the lost Coin and the lost Son. The essential thought is, that the soul without God is lost and the duty of the church is to find the souls of men by bringing them to God. Sin has weakened man's body and dethroned his soul, and in consequence of this work of sin, man's soul is now one of God's wandering planets, faded flowers, lost sheep and to win back this soul to God is extremely difficult. It is easier to obtain a man's money, secure his vote, or gain his friendship, than gain his soul. *Yet God is expecting this work of us Solemn, responsible thought.* We may have no faith in ourselves to do this work, *but God has*, else He would not have commissioned us to do the work. *Blessed thought.* If Christ died for the world, and He did, and the Holy Spirit will convict of sin and he does, surely we can persuade men that we may win them. Besides we know that God helped David with his sling and Paul in prison, and is still able and willing to save and sustain to the uttermost.

Of course not all persons have the same opportunities to work, nor the same gifts and graces with which to work. There are yet those with ten talents and those with two. So God gives. But where he gives most he expects most, and vice versa. God is not a cruel master. He that complains of the smallness or the fewness of his talents would complain if he had more. Persons that complain and make excuses are seldom good at anything else. What God expects is that we use to the utmost the gifts and opportunities that he gives us. Only as we do so can we expect greater gifts and opportunities. "To him that hath shall be given" is the scripture formula. But what are the joys of soul winning?

1. The joy of knowing that you have been the means of bringing light, life, love and liberty to some sin-enlaved soul. Men have done much, even given their lives for the liberty of their fellow-men. The names of Cromwell, Wellington, Garibaldi, Washington and Lincoln will be kept fresh as long as thought and heart shall live; and the names of Luther, Huss, Melancthon and Ridley, as champions of intellectual freedom

shall never grow dim with age. But to impart spiritual life and spiritual liberty to an enslaved soul is greater than all other services that man can do for man. England once sent General Napier with ten thousand to Abyssinia to face a single prisoner. The expedition cost England twenty-five million of dollars. *And why?* To show to the world that the English flag guaranteed life and liberty to all that claim its protection. As soul winners our object is the soul;—the soul that God gave to man—the soul that God ransomed by the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ—the soul that God has prepared a heaven for. *Ah, think of our work!* There is none other to be compared to it. Great blessings have come to the world thro the labors of such persons as John Howard, Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton, but the workers of all such is eclipsed by the joy and the permanent blessings of bringing man, dead because of sin to the life and service of Christ.

2. The joy of knowing that thro your efforts in soul-winning the world is made better, and service for Christ is increased. Andrew brought Peter, and Peter became the great preacher of Pentecost under whose ministry three thousand were added to the church in a single day, and which man became one of the pillars of the apostolic church. Think of the joy of thus multiplying goodness. Pardon a personal illustration. During my short ministry I have been used of God in leading not a few to Christ. This fact alone brings joy. But here is yet a greater joy. At least one of these is now engaged in active work for the Master and only recently he was the means of leading twelve to Christ. Thus the work multiplies. You can not tell what may result thro some soul that you may bring to Christ. Some one brought John Knox, Martin Luther, John Bunyan, John Wesley to Christ. You may do as much.

3. The joy of knowing that you are engaged in a work that is best for all concerned. All honest persons want to be engaged in such a work. We search for it—we live for it; but work for Christ alone will give it.

4. The joy of reward—the glorious homecoming, bearing with us our sheaves. Surely these are enough. Can we yet remain indifferent? Would that during this service God might throw upon the Young People's society of the Brethren church the burden of lost souls and that there may go up to God a united prayer, "God give us souls or we die." Amen.

#### Notes from Various Sources

Necessary qualifications for soul winning:  
(1) To be conscious of a call from God.  
(2) Complete knowledge of what God teaches in His Word. (3) Entire consecration to the Lord Jesus. (4) A definite, conscious baptism of the Holy Ghost.—B. FAY MILLS.

He that goes after the lost has entered into partnership with God.

Christ went over the bleak mountains to find the lost and great was the joy when the

lost was found. So he that is unwilling to traverse the bleak mountains of sin in search of the lost in imitation of Christ is unworthy to know the joy of finding the lost.

It is better to save men than to save money. In which are we most interested?

There is no selfishness in the soul winner's joy, for he wins not something for his own pleasure and profit, but he helps another to find a life of joy and peace in the Holy Ghost.

A human life is too great and too divine to spend itself chiefly upon trifles of dress and pleasure. They who live to adorn themselves and to conform prevailing fashions live very much in vain. They waste golden talents on tasks of dross.—*Forward.*

It is not our own strength but the hold we take upon God's strength that measures our power as Christian workers.

The Christian worker's joy is not only that which comes from the contemplation of the number of souls saved thro him. If it were, some very earnest workers would have very little joy. There is a greater joy than this, which comes with the knowledge that one has been laboring with God—that the unspeakable privilege of working with God in the redemption of man is his. *This satisfies.*

I quote the following from an address made by the Emperor William during his recent visit to the Holy Land: "From Jerusalem a light has risen upon the world, the blessed light in whose splendor our German people have become great and glorious. That which the German people have become, they have become under the banner of the cross of Golgotha, the true sign of self-sacrificing love for our neighbor."

A million young people are today troubled about the choice of a life work. Their perplexity arises from the fact that they are viewing the future from the wrong standpoint. They are asking what the world can be made to yield them; how they themselves may get the most out of life. But difficulties disappear when we turn the question and ask, "How may I best give my life to the world?" At once a thousand doors of opportunity open; a thousand causes call for supporters; a thousand hard but glorious posts of sacrifice and service ask for occupants. Where a young person seriously offers to the world, or better to the world's master, a life of devoted labor, that young person at once insures for himself a large, useful and noble future. There is no career like a career of service.—*Forward.*

The more we know and the more we become the better qualified are we to glorify God. Preparation is often a proof of consecration. Better offer the Father a jewel cut and polished than a gem in the rough.

W. D. FURRY.

A duty is not to be shirked because it is disagreeable; but if it can be made agreeable, by all means make it so.—*Gail Hamilton.*